"All the News That's UNFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

TRUTH LETTER

An Antidote to Official Mendacity and Newsfaking in the Press

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Editorial: The only thing they're afraid of is the verdict of History. It will be severe.

How Garrison Was Framed (ctd.)

Pershing Gervais' Sensational Turnabout Clears Garrison!

I hardly believed my eyes when I learned about the latest development in the Garrison case, and you probably won't believe yours when you read this, for I doubt that your local newsfaker (pardon me, newspaper) has breathed a word about it.

Well, the startling fact of the matter is that Garrison's accuser, his former close friend and employee Pershing Gervais, has recanted. He has admitted, formally and publicly, that he lied about Garrison being the "bagman" for a syndicate of pinball machine operators. What is more, he has admitted that he was forced by the U.S. Government to entrap - that's his own word - the New Orleans DA on spurious charges. If this doesn't take your breath away, nothing ever will. You're in good shape, then.

Shortly after Garrison's arrest last year, I published in TRUTH LETTER a lead article entitled "The Federal Frame-up Factory" meaning the FBI. "TL readers will not be fooled for one moment by the U.S. Government's charges of bribery and other misconduct against the New Orleans DA," I wrote in that piece. "Something like that was to be expected. Nobody can expose with impunity the abysmal duplicity and inherent wickedness of the LBJ and Nixon administrations, both equally rotten products of the Dallas coup d'état. If Garrison hadn't written 'A Heritage of Stone', in which he exposed more of the U.S. Government's participation in and responsibility for the Kennedy murder than he ever did at the Clay Shaw trial, they might not have moved against him. The book made it imperative for them to try and discredit the author at all costs."

At the time I wrote those lines I was severely ill and maybe even some of my most sympathetic readers thought that sickness had affected my brain. The idea that the U.S. Government could really stoop so low as to frame deliberately a man of Garrison's status must have seemed preposterous even to people inclined to take a sceptical view of goings-on in Washington, D.C.

Well, they did. It's all there now in cold print: Gervais' unequivocal confession that he fabricated a case against Garrison at the behest of the so-called Department of Justice, that he deliberately entrapped the man who had been his pal and benefactor because he couldn't resist the pressure the Nixon Maladministration was putting on him.

Am I dreaming? Having nightmares? Well, if you think so, please turn to the New Orleans States-Item of May 23, 1972 and following issues and get the facts direct from that well-placed source. And please bear in mind that the "States-Item", like its sister publication, the "Times-Picayune", has always been stauncbly anti-Garrison, that it was, in fact, the only paper in the U.S. which printed in extenso the U.S. Government's 113-page case against Jim Garrison. In the May 15,1972 issue of TL I promised my readers to acquaint them with the contents of this document which rests almost in its entirety on a 107-page affidavit by Pershing Gervais. It would be a waste

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of time and paper to do so now because Gervais has admitted that the whole thing is a fake. And he is the man to know.

It was again Rosemary James, formerly of the "States-Item" staff and now a reporter for WWL-TV, who scooped the nation by exposing this frame-up scandal. Mrs. James, it will be remembered, was the enterprising young lady who on Feb. 17, 1967, catapulted Jim Garrison into the limelight by revealing his investigation of a conspiracy to kill President John F. Kennedy. At the time, Rosemary James, while fair enough as reporting standards in the U.S. go in such matters, was distinctly not pro-Garrison and the book "Plot or Politics?", which she published later that year with Jack Wardlaw, also exhibited an unmistakeable bias in favor of defendant Clay Shaw and against the DA. This former stance makes her present performance the more remarkable and lends it complete credibility - a rare commodity in US politics these days.

Mrs. James, it seems, had gotten wind of the fact that Pershing Gervais, who had disappeared from sight after Garrison's much-touted arrest on June 30,1971, was living in Canada under the assumed name of Paul Mason. She located him at his temporary home in Vancouver, B.C., where he was staying with his wife and two children, and obtained an interview with him that was filmed and broadcast by WWL-TV on Monday, May 22, 1972. In it, Gervais admitted that he had been coerced "by constant, calculated harassment" on the part of Government officials to bear false witness against Garrison.

When asked what he meant, Gervais said, "I would rather say that I was forced to work for them...but more than that, I was forced to lie for them, that's a better description. From the beginning of that harassment until the time I was, for want of a better description, was seduced by the Justice Department - if I could be seduced - somewhere in there it became clear that they were really interested in the one man, Jim Garrison, and in their minds they knew I was the guy who could get him."

"Now when you say that when you went to work for the government, what sort of work did you do?" Mrs. James asked.

"Well, it was, you see, it's, uh, entrapping people."

"What people?"

"The pinball operators."

"And who else?"

"And Jim Garrison."

The interviewer was rightly aghast. "Are you saying," she asked, "you participated in a deliberate frame-up of Jim Garrison and a whole bunch of pinball executives at the direction of the federal government?"

"Without a doubt. I'm saying that unequivocally... I insist that I take a polygraph ... and I insist that... in Washington they take a polygraph that they were part and parcel to the whole farce." (Imagine any member of the Nixon Maladministration taking a lie detector test! Why, that would bust the machine at the first turn of a knob!)

Mrs. James then asked Gervais if the government had offered or promised him anything.

"Do you think that I would do everything that I did for nothing, for absolutely nothing?" he replied. "I never did anything for nothing in my life."

(Interviewer) "Well, John Wall, head of the strike force, got up in open court and said under oath that the federal government had offered you nothing, promised you nothing, given you nothing. Are you saying..."

"How in the hell did I get to Canada?"

"I don't know. Tell me how you got here."

"They paid every goddam nickel of it. That's how I got here. Do you think I would have paid for it? I've got the most ridiculous, the softest job in America."

In subsequent statements - in particular a telephone interview with the Vancouver Sun, after leaving Canada - Gervais gave a lot of fascinating details about the cozy arrangement through which he was to be compensated by the US Government for his Judas services.

At first, Gervais was given a $ 22,000-a-year job with a "major" (unidentified) US oil company, his assignment being to spy on the Canadian Government - with the explicit blessing of the Justice Department in Washington. In Gervais' own words, his mission was "to infiltrate, worm my way in and find out why this company wasn't given drilling rights like others." However, before long, officials in the "higher echelons" of the oil company backed down from the scheme on the advice of legal counsel, leaving the U.S. Justice Department, to use again Gervais' own words, "hopping mad."

Next, the US Government procured for Gervais a real soft job with General Motors (Canada) that paid $ 18,000 a year, plus $ 4,000 thrown in for good measure by Justice.

"They dictated to GM in Detroit and Detroit dictated to Oshawa (GM's headquarters in Canada) - that's the way Gervais himself put it. The job was arranged, according to Gervais, while he and his family "sort of made our way slowly across the country like tourists heading for Vancouver." The Justice Department, which he said was sending him enough money "to get by on," finally ordered him to Washington, D.C. where he formally changed his name to Paul Mason. In order to get around Canadian immigration rules, Washington moreover put the squeeze on Ottawa to provide Gervais with a phony "minister's permit" allowing him to live and work in Canada from January 1972 until January 1973. On top of it all, Justice issued to Gervais a fake birth certificate for his son, who was then under the required age of six, to get into the Vancouver school system. Did you ever hear of a law-and-order government so dedicated to official forgeries?

Gervais and family then were taken to Toronto by Gerald Shure, an official of the Justice Department, and introduced to the president of GM in Canada.

"Why he wanted to see me, I don't know," Gervais commented. "I guess he just wanted to see what this guy looked like who he had been told to hire. They took me out to the plant, introduced me to others and put me through a three-week course. I learned nothing in that. I know as much about traffic management -(his official title was to be "field traffic manager" - J.J.)as I know about operating a linotype machine. But it was all part of the payoff for the affidavit. The Justice Department had to give me money, and they had to know where I was and what I was doing. So they got the Canadian government and GM to cooperate down the line."

"It comes down to this," Gervais concluded this interview, "I've been working at a fake job in Canada since January and living there since last July all because of connivance between the Justice Department, the Canadian government and GM."

While pretending to work for GM, Gervais lived in Tsawwassen, a suburb of Vancouver. According to the "States-Item" of May 25,1972, "General Motors confirmed that Gervais was an employe but refused to say how he had gotten the position." Well, Gervais just told us how he got it.

The Vancouver "Sun" added this titillating bit: One of two telephone numbers Gervais was provided with as he headed for Canada was for the home of Reg Blackmore, an officer in the intelligence unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. "If any problem arose," Gervais told the newspaper, "I was supposed to get hold of him and he would fix it." RCMP Commissioner W.L.Higgitt replied to a query from the "Sun": "This is the kind of thing we don't talk about." Of course, not. It's pure cloak-and-dagger stuff with a strong smell of a CIA operation.

In a letter published by the "Times-Picayune" on May 23, Jim Garrison commented on this sordid business: "The Justice Department, at its very best, is politically oriented. Measured at its highest level, it is corrupt beyond any possible description. There are few political crimes which it has not committed. There is no offense which it will not commit, no individual right which it will not violate, if a political gain can be accomplished. The business of the Justice Department is unjustice."

For his part, Gervais on May 26 had this to say: "The Justice Department needs to be investigated more than anything else. I used to think Garrison was paranoid about the government, but, boy, now I know he's right." You can say that again, brother.

Note: Because of the importance of the foregoing, publication of the document concerning Jackie Kennedy Onassis, announced in the last issue of TL, has to be postponed to the next or a later issue. Sorry.

"When I came out, I just remember that somebody told me, 'Turn to your right. Bring towards the Colonial Room.'

Q. "Someone told you to do that?

A. "Yes, somebody told me. I think it was Mr. Uno Timanson."

It is absolutely scandalous, and it clearly betrays the bad faith and complicity of the Los Angeles authorities that Fukuto, faced with this extraordinarily significant disclosure, did not go on to probe its breathtaking implications but blandly shifted to another line of questioning.

One need not assume that Uno Timanson, an Ambassador executive and Uecker's superior, was in the plot to kill Kennedy and therefore purposely gave the order to lead the senator's party through the pantry where Sirhan lay in wait. It seems more likely that the decision to change the original plan was made for reasons of expediency, in order to avoid the milling crowds and get on with the press conference that was to be held in the Colonial Room. In any event, however, it would have been the duty of the District Attorney to find out by whom and for what reasons the decision was made that was to have such fateful consequences. But since it was obviously the purpose of the sham investigation to avoid all contact with the facts, it is hardly surprising that the name of Uno Timanson is also conspicuously missing from the Index of persons who were questioned by the Grand Jury. Always the same mode of procedure: if a witness is apt to embarrass the perpetrators of the fraud, he is eliminated a priori from the proceedings!

Most important, however, is the inescapable conclusion that Sirhan, who lay already in wait in the pantry before Timanson gave the order to change the plans previously made and to lead Kennedy to the Colonial Room by way of the kitchen, instead of to the downstairs ballroom, could not possibly know , or have any reason to believe, that Kennedy would come his way. Regardless of whether he acted on his own or was manipulated by others, Sirhan was definitely in the wrong place - a place nobody could have any foreknowledge the Senator was going to pass.

It stands to reason, therefore, that Sirhan was only a minor cog in a sophisticated plot the key figure of which was to be the gunman stalking Kennedy <u>whichever way he went</u>. Sirhan's role was to be purely diversionary. In the unlikely event that Kennedy should come his way, he was to create a noisy disturbance so all eyes would be on him and the killer behind Kennedy would be able to do the job without attracting notice. It follows further that other helpers must have been posted elsewhere along the route or routes Kennedy was more likely to take, all with the same assignment: to start firing wildly from the front and thereby to focus attention on themselves while the gunman behind Kennedy placed the "good" shots. That there <u>were</u> such other accomplices stationed throughout the hotel I have already shown in the above-cited chapter from "The Truth About the Robert Kennedy Assassination." Uecker's sensational testimony before the Grand Jury about the last-minute change in plans completely corroborates this thesis.

The whole thing was a diabolically clever plot with only one flaw: the conspirators didn't make sure that the autopsy findings would be kept under wraps forever - the way it was done in the case of the John F. Kennedy assassination. The forthrightness and honesty of Dr. Noguchi thwarted their plans and the plot became self-exposing.

Nobody but the CIA could have conceived such a setup, or executed it with such total impunity. No private organization would have had the power to compel the District Attorney's complicity to the point of eliminating beforehand a host of key witnesses and to falsify the material evidence on such a scale. That Sirhan himself was a CIA agent of long standing I have exposed in great detail in "The Truth About the Robert Kennedy Assassination" (Chapter II, "Sirhan of the CIA"). Undoubtedly Cesar also belonged to "the firm."

In the <u>Los Angeles Star</u> of January 15, 1972, Ivan Dryer, noted "Assassination Roundup" columnist, reported: "... researchers in Washington will soon release documentation that links Los Angeles Police Intelligence with the CIA, thus giving a broader perspective to the RFK case, especially as it will be interpreted by many students of the John Kennedy assassination and its alleged CIA involvement." That just about clinches the matter.

THE END